



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, December 9, 2008**

08-157

**ANCHORAGE DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO 100 MONTHS IN
FEDERAL PRISON FOR COCAINE CONSPIRACY**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on December 5, 2008, Henry Paniagua, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 100 months' imprisonment for his involvement in a cocaine trafficking conspiracy. Following completion of his sentence of imprisonment, Paniagua will be on federal supervised release for five years and will be required to participate in drug treatment.

United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess imposed the sentence on Paniagua, age 28.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly Sayers-Fay, Paniagua conspired with Michael Diaz and Melissa Mendoza, both of whom have previously been sentenced, to possess with intent to distribute approximately a kilogram of powder cocaine in January 2008. Paniagua is a repeat offender who spearheaded the conspiracy.

Mr. Cohen commends the Drug Enforcement Administration for the investigation that led to the successful prosecution of Paniagua and his coconspirators.

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